

# 'Development Dialogue' on Feb 1, to focus on CSR landscape

**Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu to inaugurate Deshpande Skilling Centre on Feb 2**

HUBBALLI, DHNS

**A**ligning companies, innovators, and NGOs in a better way for achieving big impact in agriculture, micro-entrepreneurship, and education (skilling) fields, through corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, will be the focus of discussions during this year's 'Development Dialogue' conference of the Deshpande Foundation, to be held in the City on February 1.

"Companies having CSR

(corporate social responsibility) funds, innovators working for social change, and organisations working at the grass-roots-level will be brought together, to discuss about new ideas that align public, private, and civic intentions to address common challenges in achieving lasting social impact," said Deshpande Foundation chairman Gururaj Deshpande.

## CSR Funds

Speaking to media persons here on Friday, he stated that the CSR funds available in the country is Rs 20,000 crore per annum, and the need is to properly link resources, innovations, and workers, to achieve scalable social impact.

GMR Group chairman G M Rao, HCL founder Ajay Choudhri, ITC agri & IT business head S Sivakumar, NABARD chairman Harsh Kumar



Bhanwala, Union Agriculture Department special secretary Vasudha Mishra, Yes Bank senior group president Namita Vikas, Medha co-founder Byomkesh Mishra, and others would be among the speakers at the Development Dialogue to be held at Deshpande Foundation at KLETU premises at Vidyanagar in the City on February 1.

## Workshop

After panel discussions, workshops would be held separately for focus groups in each field.

At the 'Evening with Legends' programme to be held at Infosys premises on Gokul Road at 6:00 pm on February 1, Ajai Chowdri, G M Rao, Mohandas Pai, and Harsh Kumar Bhanwala would take part.

## Centre inauguration

Vice-President of India M Venkaiah Naidu would formally inaugurate the Deshpande Skilling Centre on Gokul Road on February 2.

'Startup Dialogue' would also be held on the same day, Deshpande said.

The skilling centre has already started functioning, and graduates are being trained in skills required for getting jobs, he added.

Deshpande Foundation co-founder Jayashree Deshpande, CEO Vivek Pawar, C M Patil, P N Nayak, and others were present.